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Report on the papers of  
SIR W. LEONARD OWEN, KBE  
(1897-1971)

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THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

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CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVES CENTRE

Papers of

SIR W. LEONARD OWEN

(1897 - 1971)

Listed by Jeannine Alton

Harriot Weiskittel

Desposited in the ~~Library~~ <sup>ARCHIVES</sup> of the University of Liverpool

1974

Description of the collection

The papers were received from Lady Owen and Mr. Kenneth Owen. With a few exceptions, most of the items in the collection date from 1961 - 1971, the last ten years of Sir Leonard's career.

The most notable feature of the collection is Item 4, the manuscript diary kept by Sir Leonard while Director of Engineering, Ministry of Supply, Department of Atomic Energy Production. Sir Leonard's daily entries from 4 February 1946 until 30 August 1947 provide a valuable record of the early days of the UKAEA.

Most of the collection is business and industrial correspondence. The letters have been sorted into categories which reflect the various facets of Sir Leonard's activities and interests, both professional and social.

Summary of career

b.1897	Liverpool
1915 - 18	6th King's Liverpool Regiment
1922	Liverpool University, B.Eng.
1923	Married Phyllis Condliff
1922 - 40	Brunner, Mond & Co.
1940 - 45	Ministry of Supply, Engineering Director of Royal Filling Factories
1946	Director of Engineering, Ministry of Supply, Department of Atomic Energy Production
1947	Assistant Controller, Department of Atomic Energy Production
1950	C.B.E.
1954	Director of Engineering and Deputy Managing Director, Industrial Group, UKAEA
1957	Managing Director, UKAEA, Industrial Group, Risley
1957	K.B.E.
1959	Member for Production, UKAEA
1961	Member for Production and for Engineering, UKAEA

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I. Biographical

1. Obituary, Aton, 175, May 1971, p. 107
2. Biographical information and correspondence re entries for Who's Who 1960 -- 63
3. Ms. notes and drafts for autobiographical speech delivered at Rotary Club luncheon n.d.

II. United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

4. Ms. diary kept by Sir Leonard from the day on which he took up his appointment as Director of Engineering on the production side of the Ministry of Supply. A virtually complete daily record of the first year and a half of the project (4 February 1946 - 30 August 1947) is followed by several entries made in August and September 1949 and one entry for 2 January 1950. These entries vary in content from a simple 'day in the office' to several pages of notes on meetings, visits to sites etc. 1946 -- 50
5. Ms. and typescript drafts of Chapter I of proposed history of engineering in the UKAEA to be written by Sir Leonard and Sydney Fawcett n.d.
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| 41. | Correspondence <u>re</u> University of Manchester: letters of congratulation on Sir Leonard's Honorary D.Sc., copy of speech by the Public Orator, opening of Joint Liverpool-Manchester Universities Reactor by Sir Leonard with copy of speech and program, symposium on management | 1962 - 66 |

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 typescript (incomplete)
61. Presentation to the Symposium on 'The Organisation of Chemical Engineering Projects', June 24 - 26, London: typescript 1958
62. Report on a visit to Australia, New Zealand and Canada by Sir Leonard, March and April: offprint by UKAEA Industrial Group 1959
63. Speech to Warrington Chamber of Commerce, October: 2 type- 1959  
 scripts (untitled) with Ms. annotations, related correspondence, newspaper cutting

64. Institution of Civil Engineers symposium on management in engineering, November 1960: correspondence, typescript and proof of Sir Leonard's paper 1959 -- 60
65. 'Steel and Nuclear Power', introductory address by Sir Leonard to Iron and Steel Institute's Symposium on Steels for Reactor Pressure Circuits, 30 November: typescript of paper with Ms. annotation, typescript of introduction to film, list of participants, related correspondence 1960
66. Speech at dinner following convocation of University of Liverpool, 7 March: typescript with Ms. annotation and related correspondence 1961
67. Conference of British Institute of Management, October 24-26: copy of programme and offprint of Sir Leonard's speech 'Management and Technical Change', newspaper cuttings, related correspondence 1961
68. 'The Designer's Place' article for the Financial Times, November: typescript and related correspondence 1961
- 68a. 'Committee on Higher Education, Robbins Committee': notes for Sir Leonard's presentation, comments and amendments, copy of minutes with Sir Leonard's testimony, related correspondence 1961 - 62
69. 'Atoms at Work' exhibition at Rugby: typescript of official opening remarks and related correspondence 1962
70. 'Nuclear Fuel Manufacture: A New Industry': typescript of article in Liverpool Daily Post, January 24 1962
71. First Foratom Congress, Paris, 12-14 September: 2 typescripts and offprint of Sir Leonard's speech 'Nuclear Plant Experience in the United Kingdom', correspondence 1962
72. Ellesmere Port Industrial Association dinner, 23 November: typescript with Ms. annotations 1962
73. 'Notes for a talk to technical society of I.C.I. Alkali Division' 26 March: typescript 1963
74. Sir Leonard's speech on retirement from Risley: typescript with Ms. annotations 1963
75. 'Nuclear Engineering in the UK: the first 10 years': offprint of Sir Leonard's speech at Ninth Meeting of Institution of Civil Engineers, 29 November and copy of ensuing discussion 1962

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